

Venice Summit Typescript: West Germany

EUR/WE/CE,

25X1

25X6

Political Issues

East-West Relations

25X1

West Germany's relations with the Soviet Union are warming again following the chill that set in after Kohl compared Gorbachev to Nazi propaganda chief Josef Goebbels last October. Since the thaw began, shortly after the January elections, a number of high-ranking West German political leaders have visited or plan to visit Moscow, including Genscher and President Richard von Weizsaecker. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is expected to visit West Germany in September. Genscher in particular has pushed for better relations between Bonn and Moscow and has urged the West to respond positively to Gorbachev's domestic and arms control initiatives. Kohl's assessment has been more guarded, but he also has said that the Soviet leader's domestic reforms and policy of glasnost could lead to better relations with the West and to major arms control advances.

[REDACTED]

25X1

Bonn is concerned about the implications of Gorbachev's domestic reforms and foreign policy initiatives for Eastern Europe--particularly East Berlin and East Germany--and Kohl is likely to want to discuss this topic at the Summit. West German political leaders of all persuasions have pushed for greater rapprochement efforts toward East Berlin and East Germany, and East German leader Erich Honecker's recent

25X1

refusal of an invitation to West Berlin's 750th anniversary celebration appears to have dampened their enthusiasm only slightly. Bonn, with Genscher in the lead, also continues to promote an increase in trade and other exchanges with East Bloc countries as a means to ease East-West tension and, in addition, to improve the situation of the East Germans. [REDACTED]

25X1

Arms Control and Disarmament

Chancellor Kohl consistently has stressed his commitment to both arms reductions and the Western Alliance. He has publicly praised US-Soviet offers to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe as a positive step, but he has serious concerns about the elimination of nuclear systems with a shorter range. Bonn believes NATO should retain an ability to match the Warsaw pact on shorter-range nuclear systems to offset the latter's advantage in conventional forces. Bonn will press for talks on these systems to follow closely an agreement on INF. The West Germans, in addition, probably would like to see talks on conventional, and possibly chemical weapons, linked to any SRINF negotiations. [REDACTED]

25X1

Terrorism

25X1

West Germany traditionally has favored strong policies against domestic and foreign terrorism--Bonn enacted strengthened counterterrorism legislation just last December--and has promoted cooperative counterterrorism efforts. Kohl was forced to withdraw a controversial state witness clause originally included in the new legislation, but he probably will reintroduce a modified version. The kidnaping of two West German nationals after the arrest in West Germany of TWA 847 hijacker Mohammad Hammadi has complicated the Kohl government's response to a US request for his extradition and prompted the government to look for possible deals to free them. We believe Bonn probably will try Hammadi itself--on yet unspecified charges--instead of honoring the US extradition request.

25X1

South Africa

Bonn's policy toward South Africa is based on three tenets: no sanctions, provision of aid and training to South African non-whites, and encouragement of a Western political initiative against apartheid. The government has strongly condemned Pretoria's new restrictions on demonstrations and expression. West Germany has had the closest relations of any of the Contact Group with the Transitional Government in

25X1

Namibia and does not recognize the UN's designation of SWAPO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people." [REDACTED]

25X1

Middle East

West Germany has been a supporter of EC political and economic initiatives in the Middle East, but Bonn has reservations about Belgium Foreign Minister Tindemans' recent activism during his country's presidency of the EC. Bonn currently is debating whether to loosen its current restrictive policy on arms sales to the area, including a pending deal to sell submarines to Saudi Arabia. [REDACTED]

25X1

Iran-Iraq

West Germany fully supports the EC's stance on the Gulf conflict, which calls for an immediate stop to all hostilities and a negotiated peace settlement. Kohl's government probably would like to pursue a more conciliatory policy toward Tehran in the wake of the seizure by elements of the pro-Iranian Hizballah of two West Germans in Lebanon. Bonn maintains a policy against selling arms to belligerents, but West German arms may have reached both Iran and Iraq; we have no evidence of governmental awareness of or sanctions for such sales. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1